

Skill-based casino games in the spotlight

By Paul Szydelko, Las Vegas Sun

Those who are adept at avoiding zombies improve their chances to win in one of the skill-based games expected to be introduced on Las Vegas casino floors early next year.

Games of chance continue to dominate casino action, but games in which skill plays a factor, an effort to draw younger players into casinos, will get a lot of attention at the Global Gaming Expo (G2E), Sept. 27-29.

One of the games is the popular “Into the Dead,” California-based Gamblit Gaming’s partnership with PikPok, which has had more than 60 million downloads since it was launched in 2012 by PikPok.

Caesars Entertainment is among the first operators to agree to place Gamblit’s machines in Nevada in field trials, pending regulatory approval. After the field trial, Caesars anticipates placing 125 Gamblit gaming positions into multiple Nevada properties.

[Read the whole story](#)

Third option added for Kings Beach pier



Studies are under way to replace the pier at Kings Beach. Photo/LTN file

By Kathryn Reed

A third option to where the new pier at Kings Beach could go is being studied.

The North Lake Tahoe Resort Association gave the California Tahoe Conservancy nearly \$70,000 to analyze a western location for the pier that would be near the North Tahoe Event Center.

“This pier is designed to serve recreation boating interests,” Sue Rae Irelan of the CTC told her board this month.

While small water taxis like the ones that have existed on the North Shore in recent summers would be able to access the new pier, the structure is not being built so a cross-lake ferry could dock there. A big issue is that the land operations for such an enterprise don’t exist.

It’s possible that elements of each of the proposals could be chosen to formulate what ultimately will be a preferred alternative. Differences include how a promenade through the beach would look, if the boat ramp stays – is eliminated – or is for non-motorized watercraft only, where the pier goes, along with what happens to the kids’ play area.

The goal is to have the draft environmental documents done by the end of 2017 or in early 2018. Then the public will be able

to comment again.

Today the pier covers more sand than water. The new pier would be fixed at the shore, with a gangplank connecting to a floating pier. Even in droughts that connector would still meet ADA requirements.

Public comment on the proposals is being taken until Sept. 30.

Art piece selected for SLT's Champions Plaza



This is a small replica of what will be at Champions Plaza. Photo/Provided

"Elements of spirit" is what artist Gareth Curtiss calls the figures leaping from the flames toward the ring of glory.

He has been commissioned to create the art piece that will be the focal point of South Lake Tahoe's Champions Plaza near El Dorado Beach.

While the sculptures he presented at the City Council meeting

last week showed three men, one with his hand on the ring, Curtiss has since agreed one of the figures will be a woman.

The city for a few years has been talking about creating a public area to recognize high caliber athletes.

The bronze statue will be 10-feet high, 5 feet at the widest, with the ring being 18-inches in diameter.

Curtiss expects to pour the bronze in the spring, with the statue being ready to be erected in the summer.

– *Lake Tahoe News staff report*

Motorcyclist gunned down on I-80 near Truckee

By Associated Press

A motorcyclist was shot to death Sept. 24 on Interstate 80 near Truckee, prompting authorities to close the highway for hours to investigate.

The California Highway Patrol said three motorcyclists rode up to the victim Saturday afternoon and fired gunshots before taking off. The victim died at the scene.

CHP Officer Pete Mann told the *Sacramento Bee* the victim was associated with the Vagos biker gang. Investigators were trying to gather information about the assailants and were asking witnesses to come forward.

Westbound lanes of the interstate were closed at the Nevada state line, causing traffic to back up for miles.

Five years ago this weekend, members of the Vagos and Hells Angels gang exchanged gunfire during a deadly brawl on the floor of a casino in nearby Sparks, Nevada.

Steinem's message resonates for all ages

By Linda Fine Conaboy

RENO – As Gloria Steinem, a diminutive figure clad in black and surprisingly glamorous for a woman of 82, glided onstage at UNR'S Nightingale Hall, the packed house erupted with noise, clapping loudly as they all rose as one body and awarded her a Nevada-style welcome fit for a queen.

To many, Steinem is a queen. Queen of women's rights, including reproductive freedom, domestic violence, sexual violence and injustice toward people of color, toward members of the LGBTQ community and equal pay for women. Steinem, it would seem, is the champion of the underdog, not only in the United States, but globally.

"I'm an entrepreneur of social change," she said. "I talk. I write. I tell stories. I want to do justice to the women I meet."

On this night, her audience consisted of not only women who were on board Steinem's feminist train in the late '60s and '70s, but also young people, in between people and a surprising number of men. Clearly, Steinem has remained a visible and vibrant presence through the years and has kept

her audience intact while inducting large numbers of new recruits to her causes.

There are those who remember quite clearly a younger Gloria Steinem and stood in awe of what she was able to accomplish in the name of women's equality. But of course, there are some from the turbulent era of the Equal Rights Amendment, and even now, who consider her a blowhard.

She came to Reno at the invitation of several organizations including the Holland Project and Sundance Bookstore. Her speaker's fee was donated to the Holland Project, an all-ages arts and music initiative by and for young people.

What started as a typical lecture-type talk morphed into what Steinem called a chat around a campfire with numerous audience members pitching their causes while extolling the positive effect Steinem has had on them and their mothers.

"We need to say what concerns us," she said. "Now women deeply understand the basic reason for women's secondary position. Men have always controlled women's reproductive bodies."

She added that it is not possible to be a feminist without being an anti-racist. "Everything is connected," she said.



Gloria Steinem is continuing to spread her feminist message. Photo/Ms. Foundation for Women/file

Steinem believes we are going through a time of great danger. "There's a huge identity crises going on," she said, adding that in a short time there will no longer be a majority of white people in the U.S. This is a good thing, she said.

"We'll become connected to the rest of the world; we are on the cusp of great change. Now we must be careful to take care of each other. A woman is in most danger when she's about to be free and now women are in danger because we are about to be freed."

Heavy words to be sure, but Steinem has spent years honing her message and has pretty much stuck to it throughout the decades. She graduated Phi Beta Kappa from Smith College in 1956, and over the years became a writer, lecturer, political activist and feminist organizer. In 1972, she founded Ms. Magazine and continues to be a consulting editor for the publication.

Her activities have earned her numerous awards and there have been various documentaries produced about her.

In 2000, at the age of 66, she married David Bale, father of actor Christian Bale. Unfortunately, Bale died after only three years of marriage to Steinem, at the age of 62.

A continuing thread in her talk was connections and their power. "Bias is based on sex and race and is connected. The bias against transsexuals and gays is connected. We are linked not ranked. Each of us is a combination of heredity and environment. There is something unique in each of us, but we all share our humanity. It's simple," she said laughing, launching into more thoughts on her favorite subject.

"Women have power, but we must remember to listen instead of talk. Simple daily things will get us where we want to go. You can't destroy a village to save it; the ends don't justify the means."

As the house light went up, many eager people couldn't wait to have a chance to voice their opinions. Audience members talked freely about politics, sex, gay and lesbian issues, and equality in the workplace.

Sensing that millennials made up a good part of the audience, Steinem voiced her enthusiasm for all young men and women. "I just had to wait for some of my friends to be born," she says of her millennial friends.

She continued the age topic saying it's OK to be older. "Feelings about age are tied to reproduction. We women are more valued for our wombs than for our brains, but once the reproductive roll is finished, you are free and can become a feisty girl again."

Steinem believes the old and the young are connected by their opinions—they are natural allies. "The old and the young understand each other because they are closest to the unknown."

Dropping a few of her tried and true gems, Steinem said that

women aren't trying to be better than men, they're just trying to be equal. "Cooperation beats domination every time."

On feminism, she said: "There is no definition, but there is a full circle of characteristics."

She also aired her assessment of the workplace: "Equal pay starts with discussing how much each of us makes in the office. All productive work must be recognized [paid for], from taking care of the elderly to taking care of kids and aids patients," she said, commenting that simply recognizing the hours spent on these tasks and compensating for them monetarily would be a big boost to the economy.

As everyone rolled out of the auditorium there was lots of chatter about Steinem and what her messages are.

Janice Hoke, a Reno resident, enthusiastically shared her take on the evening's message with *Lake Tahoe News*. "Gloria was intellectual, genuine and inspiring. Her message is to recognize the connections between people rather than the barriers, do all that you can but realize that you won't succeed every time. She said feminists must naturally be anti-racism as well since it's the same patriarchal systems that are against both groups. And she believes the small things we do every day are the most important actions that will make progress in the world."

Carol Raphel, another Renoite, said, "Her message transcends gender and race. We are humans first."

Letter: MontBleu helps at Bread & Broth

To the community,

"Helping at MontBleu's adopt-a-day dinner was truly amazing," said Emmy Rowe, a sponsor volunteer from MontBleu Casino Resort & Spa. "Everybody was so nice, from the Bread & Broth volunteers to those in the community that came in to dine."

On Aug. 22, Rowe and Rachel Kallas volunteered their time to work alongside the dedicated B&B crewmembers and help serve up a hot and nutritious meal to those attending MontBleu's AAD sponsorship dinner on Monday evening at St. Theresa Grace Hall.

Feeding 97 diners is no small task, and with Rowe and Kallas' help, the B&B crew served the Monday evening grateful diners a spaghetti and meatball dinner. All of B&B's Monday evening dinners are full course meals served with vegetable dishes, green and fruit salads and a wide variety of desserts paid for by the \$250 AAD sponsorship donation.

Bread & Broth would like to thank MontBleu Casino Resort & Spa and Rowe and Kallas for their help in easing hunger in our community. Over the years, MontBleu's many sponsorships have helped feed hundreds of local folks in need. Also, thanks to their donation of over 300 cookies for B&B's Burlap & Denim fundraiser for B&B 4 Kids, MontBleu is helping to provide weekend food to children who struggle with hunger.

For more B&B information, contact me at 530.542.2876 or carolsgerard@aol.com.

Carol Gerard, Bread & Broth

Collin undergoing multiple surgeries on legs

South Lake Tahoe resident Jason Collin tonight on Facebook posted, "Thank you all so much for the amazing support, prayers and kindness. I am doing pretty well considering everything that's happened. I had surgery to straighten out my right leg today. And will have surgery on Monday to straighten out my left ankle."

The City Council candidate and six others were in an RV on **Sept. 23** when it was struck head-on by an SUV. The driver of the SUV, a woman from Wellington, died at the scene.

The Tahoe group was headed down Kingsbury Grade on their way to Mammoth when the accident occurred.

Also in the RV with Collin was his wife, Natalie. She suffered a broken finger. The names and conditions of the other people in the vehicle have not been released.

The Nevada Highway Patrol is continuing to investigate the accident.

– Lake Tahoe News staff report

AAA: People waste money on premium gas

By Tom Krisher, AP

DETROIT – There is no sense paying a premium for premium gasoline if your car is designed to run on regular, according to research by the automobile club AAA.

Some drivers occasionally like to treat their cars to higher-octane fuel in the belief it boosts performance. But premium blends can cost around 50 cents a gallon more than regular.

AAA says it's just money out the tailpipe – lots of it. In a national survey on gasoline use, AAA said 16.5 million U.S. drivers spent \$2.1 billion they didn't need to in the past year on premium gasoline.

Many think premium means quality. But AAA researchers found that while it has more octane, it didn't increase horsepower or fuel economy, decrease emissions or clean engines any better than regular gas in cars that are designed by the manufacturer to run on 87-octane regular.

"Drivers see the 'premium' name at the pump and may assume the fuel is better for their vehicle," said John Nielsen, AAA's managing director of automotive engineering.

However, if your owner's manual specifically says to run your car on 93 octane premium or 89 octane mid-grade gas, you should do it to make it perform optimally, according to the researchers. More luxury and performance brands are using turbocharging or supercharging to get better performance out of smaller engines, and those may require premium gas, Nielsen said.

AAA researchers joined with the Automobile Club of Southern

California to test V8, V6 and four-cylinder engines, coming up with the same results each time, Nielsen said.

Seventy percent of U.S. drivers own vehicles that require regular gas, while 16 percent are required to use premium fuel. The rest, about 14 percent, must use at least mid-grade gas or have an alternative fuel such as electricity, AAA says.

People also waste money on gasoline in another key way, according to AAA. Earlier this year the association studied fuel quality at a number of gas stations to see if some were better than others.

Researchers found that brands that meet the industry's "Top Tier" standards had better additives that prevented ash deposits on valves and cleaned engines better than non-Top Tier brands. And the Top Tier gasoline usually costs about the same as other brands, the association said.

Researchers found that ash deposits could cause cars to hesitate, run rough and make the engines run less efficiently, Nielsen said.

Generally the major brands meet the Top Tier standards, including BP, Exxon, Mobil, Amoco and Shell. But lesser-known brands also are in there, such as Holiday, Costco and Kwik Star.

California starts tracking police use of force

By Associated Press

From a broken bone to a fatal shooting, all 800 police

departments in California must begin using an online tool launched Thursday to report and help track every time officers use force that causes serious injuries.

The tool's developers hail it as the first statewide dataset of its kind in the country and a model for other states. Those more critical of law enforcement call it a big step toward better police accountability.

The tool, named URSUS for the bear on California's flag, includes fields for the race of those injured and the officers involved, how their interaction began and why force was deemed necessary.

"It's sort of like TurboTax for use-of-force incidents," said Justin Erlich, a special assistant attorney general overseeing the data collection and analysis.

Departments must report the data under a new state law passed last November. Though some departments already tracked such data on their own, many did not.

Working with the California Department of Justice, a technology nonprofit called Bayes Impact developed the tool in hopes of making the data easy for departments to report and easy for the state to analyze.

The tool was built as an open-source project, and California will share the software code with interested law enforcement agencies across the U.S.

Only three other states – Texas, Colorado and Connecticut – now require departments to track similar use-of-force data but their systems aren't digital, and in Colorado's case, only capture shootings, according to the National Conference of State Legislatures.

"As a country, we must engage in an honest, transparent, and data-driven conversation about police use of force,"

California Attorney General Kamala Harris said in a news release.

The goal is to capture all incidents that cause serious injuries but not minor ones, like bruises.

“How do we get enough information where we can really focus on how to improve or inform policy? How do we make sure it’s not too big?” Erlich said. “Capturing stubbed toes muddies the data but not capturing broken bones would be a huge miss.”

California’s efforts come as the FBI has made such data collection a priority in the wake of a number of officer-involved deaths of unarmed black people across the country.

Last year, the FBI announced it would begin collecting all use-of-force data and make it public, though departments don’t have to participate.

FBI Director James Comey has expressed frustration over the absence of nationwide use-of-force data and said its collection will “dispel misperceptions, foster accountability and promote transparency.”

California’s police departments will report their use-of-force data to the state once a year beginning in January. It will be made public as early as the spring.

Until now, California only tracked deaths in custody, not non-lethal uses of force. And it did so using paper forms.

“This is hugely important,” said Peter Bibring, director of police practices at the American Civil Liberties Union of Southern California. “We’re not taking use of force seriously until we’re tracking information about every use-of-force incident.”

Patrisse Cullors, co-founder of Black Lives Matter, said she thinks the new data will show a pattern of abuse across the state. But actually collecting that data is positive, she

said.

“We live in a culture that perpetuates racism and we need to be able to verify that racism through data,” she said. “For the people who continue to deny racial disparities exist in this country, this data will allow us to have those living room and dinner conversations and share facts.”

Many in law enforcement think the data will show just how rare force incidents are, said Louis Dekmar, vice president of the International Association of Chiefs of Police and chief of the LaGrange Police Department in Georgia.

But the data also will help pinpoint excessive force and help departments make key changes, he added.

“I see it as something long overdue,” Dekmar said. “When we screw up we should own up to it and do something to fix it.”

EDC land to be restored once building is gone



Restoration of this site will be

finished in 2017. Photo/CTC

The old blue building at the corner of Highway 50 and Sawmill Road near Meyers is coming down. Demolition began this week.

The 1.05-acre parcel was acquired by the California Tahoe Conservancy in December 2015. The structure was located on sensitive land near the former site of historic Ethel's Pie Shop in El Dorado County. This is how the climbing area next door – The Pie Shop – got its name.

The Conservancy's Tahoe Livable Communities Program allows aging developments on environmentally sensitive land to be acquired, demolished and restored. Development rights from the property are transferred to town centers as identified in the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency's Regional Plan.

Demolition, site stabilization, and initial restoration activities will be completed this fall. Full restoration will occur next year.